

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 529
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: MARR, NATO, GR
SUB: GREEK PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISE SHAPEX

REF: ATHENS 4289 (DTG 091526Z MAY 77)

1. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED MAY 10 THAT ARMY LT. GENERAL IAKOVOS VAZEOS, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES, WILL REPRESENT GREECE AT NATO'S ANNUAL SHAPEX EXERCISE IN BRUSSELS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN, VAZEOS WILL PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF GREECE'S PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE QUOTE POLITICAL-MILITARY PROBLEMS UNQUOTE INCLUDED IN THE EXERCISE SCENARIO. THE ANA BULLETIN ALSO SAID THAT VAZEOS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SMALL GROUP OF STAFF OFFICERS. TWO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, IOANNIS MINEOS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY AND CONSTANTINE KONIOTAKIS OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, WLL ALSO ATTEND THE EXERCISE, ACCORDING TO ANA.

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3. COMMENT: AS WE REPORTED IN REFTEL, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE STATED ON MAY 6 THAT GREECE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN NATO EXERCISES WHEN IT IS IN GREECE'S INTEREST TO DO SO, BUT THIS WOULD NOT SIGNIFY A CHANGE IN GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT MINEOS IS A RETIRED REAR ADMIRAL. KONIOTAKIS, A RETIRED AIRFORCE GENERAL, IS A DEPUTY FROM CRETE WHERE THE PRESENCE OF US MILITARY FACILITIES IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. HE IS A REGULAR

GREEK PARTICIPANT IN NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES.
KUBISCH

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